

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method of achieving electronic business transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, said method comprising:

storing, in an open business information database included in said center site, information of open businesses issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites, thereby permitting said member sites to be either a seller or a purchaser of products and/or services;

receiving, in said center site, a request from a member site to access said information of open businesses of said open business information database so as to search said information of open businesses to determine products and/or services of interest;

receiving, at said center site, an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase products and/or services of interest described by the requested information received from said center site,

wherein said member site selects another member site as an order destination member site with which a transaction is to be conducted based on the requested information; and

transmitting, from said center site to said order destination member site, said order specification based on the requested information from said open business information database to permit the conduct of the transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.

14. (currently amended)An electronic business transaction system, comprising:

a center site;

a plurality of member sites; and

a network which connects said center site and said member sites to each other,

wherein said center site comprises:

an open business information database which stores information of open businesses issued by said member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites, thereby permitting said member sites to be either a seller or a purchaser of products and/or services,

means for receiving a request from a member site to access information of open businesses of said open business information database so as to search said information of open businesses to determine products and/or services of interest,

means for receiving an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase products and/or services of interest described by the requested information received from said center site,

wherein said member site selects another member site as an order destination member site with which a transaction is to be conducted based on the requested information; and

means for transmitting, from said center site to said order destination member site, said order specification based on the requested information from said open business information database to permit the conduct of the transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.

15. (currently amended) A method of achieving electronic business transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, said method comprising:

storing, in an open business information database included in said center site, information of open businesses issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites, thereby permitting said member sites to be either a seller or a purchaser of products and/or services;

receiving, in said center site, a request from a member site to access information of open businesses of said open business information database stored in

said center site so as to search said information of open business to determine products and/or services of interest;

receiving, at said center site, an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase products and/or services of interest described by the requested information received from said center site,

wherein said member site selects another member site as an order destination member site with which a transaction is to be conducted based on the requested information; and

receiving, at said center site, a request from an order destination member site to access said order specification so as to respond to said order specification based on said open business information database to permit the conduct of the transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.

16. (currently amended)An electronic business transaction system, comprising:

a center site;

a plurality of member sites; and

a network which connects said center site and said member sites to each other,

wherein said center site comprises:

an open business information database which stores information of open businesses issued by said member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or

being offered for purchase by said member sites, thereby permitting said member sites to be either a seller or a purchaser of products and/or services,

means for receiving a request from a member site to access information of open businesses of said open business information database so as to search said information of open business to determine products and/or services of interest,

means for receiving an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase products and/or services of interest described by the requested information received from said center site,

wherein said member site selects another member site as an order destination member site with which a transaction is to be conducted based on the requested information; and

means for receiving a request from said order destination member site to access said order specification so as to respond to said order specification based on the requested information from said open business information database to permit the conduct of the transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.